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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00
	DS-00	EB-01	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-16	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00
	SR-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	ASDS-01
	RPE-01	/043W					

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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5826
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
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USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECJ4-SAA// PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 KIGALI 00843

STATE FOR AF/C AND DSS/OP/AF
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YAOUNDE FOR DAO

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, PHUM, PGOV, RW
SUBJECT: CALM PREVAILS, NEW POLITICAL GAMBIT ON TABLE

REF: KIGALI 830

1. (C) SUMMARY. CALM PREVAILED IN MOST KIGALI
NEIGHBORHOODS FOR MOST OF THE WEEKEND, BUT ANXIETY
CONTINUED, FUELED BY RUMORS OF IMMINENT RPF ATTACK

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AND COUP D'ETAT. THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH THE PARTIES RESULTED IN A COMMUNIQUE THAT LAID OUT A SLIGHTLY MODIFIED VERSION OF LAST WEEK'S ANNOUNCED SETTLEMENT TO THE IMPASSE, WHICH, IF ACCEPTED BY THE RPF, WOULD HAVE TRANSITION INSTITUTIONS IN PLACE SOON. AMBASSADOR'S WEEKEND DISCUSSIONS WITH RPF SUGGEST THEY WILL CONSIDER THIS AN IMPOSED SOLUTION AND THUS UNACCEPTABLE. END SUMMARY.

CALM CONTINUES

2. (U) KIGALI REMAINED CALM IN MOST NEIGHBORHOODS THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND. THE EXCEPTION WAS IN GIKONDO, HOME OF SLAIN CDR LEADER BUCYANA, WHERE THERE WERE REPORTS OF ROADBLOCKS EVENING OF 2/27, SET UP AFTER CURFEW BY INTERAHAMWE, WHO UN FORCES TOLD EMBASSY, WERE ATTEMPTING TO INTERCEPT INFILTRATING RPF FORCES. EMBASSY EMPLOYEES IN GIKONDO, AND ELSEWHERE IN TOWN, REPORT ESTABLISHING NEIGHBORHOOD PATROLS TO GUARD AGAINST NIGHTTIME ASSAULTS.

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3. (U) FUELING INSECURITY THROUGHOUT KIGALI WERE RUMORS, BEGINNING AT THE END OF LAST WEEK, OF IMMINENT MILITARY ACTIVITY FROM EITHER THE RPF OR GOVERNMENT FORCES. THE PRESUMED GOVERNMENT COUP, ALEDGEDLY TO SUPPORT THE ARUSHA PROCESS BY ENDING THE IMPASSE AND INSTALLING THE BROAD-BASED TRANSITION GOVERNMENT, WAS TO HAVE OCCURRED SATURDAY NIGHT. AN RPF ATTACK WAS ALSO SUPPOSED TO HAVE OCCURRED SAME NIGHT. NEITHER EVENT OCCURRED AND THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT WOULD LEND CREDIBILTIY TO THE RUMORS.

4. (U) THE RPF ATTACK RUMORS AND THE GIKONDO ROADBLOCKS MAY HAVE BEEN PROMPTED BY RADIO RTLM REPORTS (PRO-HABYARIMANA RADIO STATION) DECLARING THAT SOME RPF SOLDIERS HAD ESCAPED FROM THE CND COMPOUND AND INFILTRATED INTO THE POPULATION IN PREPARATION FOR AN ATTACK. THE UN COMMANDER OF THE KIGALI SECTOR CATEGORICALLY DENIED THIS POSSIBILITY PUBLICLY, STATING THAT THE CND PERIMETER WAS WELL PATROLLED NIGHT AND DAY.

5. (C) UNAMIR COMMANDER DALLAIRE TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR RPF SOLDIERS TO

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ESCAPE UNNOTICED FROM THE CND COMPOUND. UN SOLDIERS ARE CHECKING THE FENCE REGULARLY AND LOOKOUTS ON TOP OF THE BUILDING HAVE POWERFUL NIGHT-VISION BINOCULARS THAT WOULD PRECLUDE UNDETECTED ESCAPE.

RPF REMINISCES

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6. (U) A STRONG RPF STATEMENT ISSUED 2/27 CALLED THE RECENT KILLINGS "SELECTIVE AND TARGETED MASSACRES" THAT HAD OVERWHELMED THE UN FORCES. IT RECALLED EARLIER MASSACRES -- KIBILIRA, BIGOGWE, BUGESERA, KIBUYE, RUHENGERI, GISENYI -- WHERE RWAMDANS HAD BECOME MARTYRS BECAUSE OF THEIR ETHNIC, REGIONAL OR POLITICAL AFFILIATION. NOTING THAT AT EACH POLITICAL IMPASSE, THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN SELECTIVE VIOLENCE, THE RPF CALLED THESE MASSACRES "NOTHING MORE THAN A STRATEGY OF DISSUASION" BY THE HABYARMANA "REGIME" "DESIGNED TO IMPOSE A SERIES OF INDUCED CONCESSIONS ON THE RPF."

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7. (C) THIS STATEMENT, WHICH ECHOES ONE OF 2/22 IN WHICH THE RPF SAID IT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO REPLY APPROPRIATELY TO SUCH ABUSES OF THE POPULATION, IS CONSISTENT ANALYSIS OF RPF LEADERS TO THE AMBASSADOR. PASTEUR BIZIMUNGU SAID THAT THE INSECURITY PREVALENT IN THE COUNTRY NOW WAS NOT/NOT A CONSEQUENCE OF THE LACK OF A GOVERNMENT BUT OF EXPLOITATION OF VIOLENCE TO INTIMIDATE AND WRING CONCESSIONS FROM THE OPPOSITION AND TO KEEP A GOVERNMENT FROM FORMING.

NEW POLITICAL GAMBIT

8. (U) THE POLITICAL MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT

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HABYARIMANA AND THE LEADERS OF THE FIVE POLITICAL PARTIES CURRENTLY IN THE GOVERNMENT (MRMD, MDR, PSD, PL AND PDC) RESULTED IN A COMMUNIQUE AFTER TWO LONG, ALL-DAY SESSIONS 2/25 AND 2/27 THAT SET FORTH SLIGHTLY MODIFIED TERMS FOR FORMATION OF TRANSITION INSTITUTIONS AND A NEW TIMETABLE.

9. (U) THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, ANNOUNCED IN A COMMUNIQUE READ ON RADIO RWANDA BY PRESIDENTIAL
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CABINET DIRECTOR, WOULD HAVE THE PL SHARE DEPUTY AND MINISTERIAL POSTS IN THE MANNER FIRST OUTLINED BY THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS, WITH THE LANDO FACTION PROVIDING THE CANDIDATE FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENCY. THE TERMS WOULD HAVE THE PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE ACCEPT TWO MINISTERS PROVIDED HIM BY HIS PARTY OPPONENTS. THE RESULTING LISTS SHOULD BE IN THE PRESIDENT'S HANDS NO LATER THAN 3/1 FOR SUBSEQUENT VETTING WITH THE RPF SO A DATE FOR THE SWEARING-IN COULD BE SET.

10. (C) OVER AN INFORMAL SUNDAY LUNCH, RPF LEADERS PATRICK MAZIMHAKA AND PASTEUR BIZIMUNGU TOLD AMBASSADOR 2/27 THAT THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY SOLUTION IMPOSED BY PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA. THEY SAID THE RESULTS OF THE ALL-PARTY MEETING OF 2/18 WERE SATISFACTORY TO THEM AND THEY SAW NO REASON FOR SETTING OUT ALTERNATIVE APPROACH WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE RPF. IN THEIR VIEW, PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA HAD NO AUTHORITY TO CALL THE MEETING OF PARTIES IN THE GOVERNMENT AND, IF INVITED TO PARTICIPATE, WOULD HAVE TOLD HIM SO. (NOTE. BIZIMUNGU ALSO SAID THAT THE PARTIES OPPOSED TO PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA HAD WIND OF AN IMPENDING ASSASSINATION OF A POLITICAL LEADER AND HAD DIRECTLY CHALLENGED THE MRND ABOUT IT AT THE 2/18 MEETING WITHOUT ELICITING A RESPONSE. END NOTE.)

11. (C) UNAMIR COMMANDER TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT THE RPF LEADERS ARE RETURNING TO MULINDI MORNING OF 2/28. PRESUMABLY, HE SAID, THEY ARE GOING TO MEET
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WITH GENERAL KAGAME WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A TRIP
ABROAD.

COMMENT

12. (C) IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER ALL THE PARTIES
PARTICIPATING IN THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING CONCUR WITH
THE AGREEMENT ANNOUNCED IN THE COMMUNIQUE. THE RPF
IS UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT ITS TERMS AS THEY ARE LIKELY TO
VIEW IT AN IMPOSITION OF A SOLUTION BY THE
PRBBIDENT. THEY APPEAR TO HAVE MOVED LITTLE FROM
THEIR INSISTENCE THAT THE FIRST PL LIST (PL/LANDO) BE
ACCEPTED INTACT, WITHOUT REPLACEMENT FROM THE SECOND
PL LIST (PL/MUGENZI). RAWSON

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